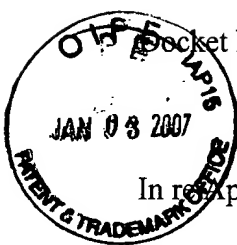


B

TFW



Docket No.: 043890-0448

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of : Customer Number: 20277  
Masato HIGASHI : Confirmation Number: 3423  
Application No.: 09/673,628 : Group Art Unit: 2164  
Filed: December 08, 2000 : Allowed: December 04, 2006  
Examiner: Samuel G. Rimell  
For: DISK SYSTEM AND METHOD OF UPDATING FIRMWARE

REQUEST FOR ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF PRIORITY DOCUMENT

Mail Stop **ISSUE FEE**  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Applicant is in receipt of the Notice of Allowance dated December 4, 2006. In the Notice of Allowability, the Examiner does not acknowledge the claim for foreign priority

The certified priority document was filed in the International Bureau of the PCT as evidenced by the enclosed copy of Form PCT/IB/304, and acknowledged by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office as evidenced by the enclosed Form PCT/DO/EO/903 (highlighted for the Examiner's convenience).

It is respectfully requested the receipt of a copy of the priority document be acknowledged.

Respectfully submitted,

McDERMOTT WILL & EMERY LLP

Michael E. Fogarty  
Registration No. 36,139

600 13<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20005-3096  
Phone: 202.756.8000 MEF:cg  
Facsimile: 202.756.8087  
**Date: January 3, 2007**

**Please recognize our Customer No. 20277  
as our correspondence address.**

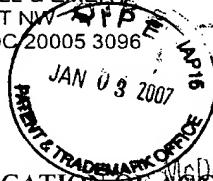
MEF



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
 Patent and Trademark Office  
 Address: ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
 Washington, D.C. 20231

|                               |                       |                  |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| U.S. APPLICATION NO.          | FIRST NAMED APPLICANT | ATTY. DOCKET NO. |
| 09/673628                     | HIGASHI               | M 43890-448      |
| INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. |                       |                  |
| PCT/JP00/00812                |                       |                  |
| I.A. FILING DATE              | PRIORITY DATE         |                  |
| 15 FEB 00                     | 23 FEB 99             |                  |

MCDERMOTT WILL & EMERY  
 600 13TH STREET NW  
 WASHINGTON, DC 20005 3096



JAN 5 2001

DATE MAILED:

03 JAN 2001

**NOTIFICATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF APPLICATION UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371  
 AND 37 CFR 1.494 OR 1.495**

1. The applicant is hereby advised that the United States Patent and Trademark Office in its capacity as ☒ a Designated Office (37 CFR 1.494), ☐ an Elected Office (37 CFR 1.495), has determined that the above identified international application has met the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 371, and is **ACCEPTED** for national patentability examination in the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

2. The United States Application Number assigned to the application is shown above and the relevant dates are:

08 DEC 2000  
 35 U.S.C. 102(e) DATE

08 DEC 2000  
 DATE OF RECEIPT OF  
 35 U.S.C. 371 REQUIREMENTS

A Filing Receipt (PTO-103X) will be issued for the present application in due course. **THE DATE APPEARING ON THE FILING RECEIPT AS THE "FILING DATE" IS THE DATE ON WHICH THE LAST OF THE 35 U.S.C. 371(C) REQUIREMENTS HAS BEEN RECEIVED IN THE OFFICE. THIS DATE IS SHOWN ABOVE.** The filing date of the above identified application is the international filing date of the international application (Article 11(3) and 35 U.S.C. 363). Once the Filing Receipt has been received, send all correspondence to the Group Art Unit designated thereon.

3. ☒ A request for immediate examination under 35 U.S.C. 371(f) was received on 19 OCT 2000 and the application will be examined in turn.

4. The following items have been received:

- ☒ U.S. Basic National Fee.
- ☒ Copy of the international application in:
  - ☒ a non-English language.
  - ☐ English.
- ☒ Translation of the international application into English.
- ☒ Oath or Declaration of inventor(s) for DO/EO/US.
- ☐ Copy of Article 19 amendments. ☐ Translation of Article 19 amendments into English.  
 The Article 19 amendments ☐ have ☐ have not been entered.
- ☐ The International Preliminary Examination Report in English and its Annexes, if any.
- ☐ Copy of the Annexes to the International Preliminary Examination Report (IPER).  
☐ Translation of Annexes to the IPER into English.  
 The Annexes ☐ have ☐ have not been entered.
- ☒ Preliminary amendment(s) filed 19 OCT 2000 and \_\_\_\_\_.
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) filed 19 OCT 2000 and \_\_\_\_\_.
- ☐ Assignment document.
- ☐ Power of Attorney and/or Change of Address.
- ☐ Substitute specification filed \_\_\_\_\_.
- ☐ Verified Statement Claiming Small Entity Status.
- ☒ Priority Document.
- ☒ Copy of the International Search Report ☒ and copies of the references cited therein.
- ☐ Other:

Applicant is reminded that any communication to the United States Patent and Trademark Office must be mailed to the address given in the heading and include the U.S. application no. shown above. (37 CFR 1.5)

Fred Smith

## PCT

### NOTIFICATION CONCERNING SUBMISSION OR TRANSMITTAL OF PRIORITY DOCUMENT

(PCT Administrative Instructions, Section 411)

From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

To:

IWAHASHI, Fumio  
Matsushita Electric Industrial  
Co., Ltd.  
1006, Oaza Kadoma  
Kadoma-shi, Osaka 571-8501  
JAPON

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Date of mailing (day/month/year)<br>06 April 2000 (06.04.00)              |  |
| Applicant's or agent's file reference<br>P21938-P0                        | <div style="border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; padding: 2px;">           松下寿<br/>28920         </div> |
| International application No.<br>PCT/JP00/00812                           | <b>IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION</b>  |
| International filing date (day/month/year)<br>15 February 2000 (15.02.00) | International publication date (day/month/year)<br>Not yet published   |
| Priority date (day/month/year)<br>23 February 1999 (23.02.99)             |  |
| Applicant<br>MATSUSHITA ELECTRIC INDUSTRIAL CO., LTD. et al               |  |

1. The applicant is hereby notified of the date of receipt (except where the letters "NR" appear in the right-hand column) by the International Bureau of the priority document(s) relating to the earlier application(s) indicated below. Unless otherwise indicated by an asterisk appearing next to a date of receipt, or by the letters "NR", in the right-hand column, the priority document concerned was submitted or transmitted to the International Bureau in compliance with Rule 17.1(a) or (b).
2. This updates and replaces any previously issued notification concerning submission or transmittal of priority documents.
3. An **asterisk(\*)** appearing next to a date of receipt, in the right-hand column, denotes a priority document submitted or transmitted to the International Bureau but not in compliance with Rule 17.1(a) or (b). In such a case, **the attention of the applicant is directed** to Rule 17.1(c) which provides that no designated Office may disregard the priority claim concerned before giving the applicant an opportunity, upon entry into the national phase, to furnish the priority document within a time limit which is reasonable under the circumstances.
4. The **letters "NR"** appearing in the right-hand column denote a priority document which was not received by the International Bureau or which the applicant did not request the receiving Office to prepare and transmit to the International Bureau, as provided by Rule 17.1(a) or (b), respectively. In such a case, **the attention of the applicant is directed** to Rule 17.1(c) which provides that no designated Office may disregard the priority claim concerned before giving the applicant an opportunity, upon entry into the national phase, to furnish the priority document within a time limit which is reasonable under the circumstances.

| <u>Priority date</u>    | <u>Priority application No.</u> | <u>Country or regional Office<br/>or PCT receiving Office</u> | <u>Date of receipt<br/>of priority document</u> |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------|---|---|
| 23 Febr 1999 (23.02.99) | 11/44366                        | JP  | 31 Marc 2000 (31.03.00)                         |

|  |  |
|--|--|
| The International Bureau of WIPO<br>34, chemin des Colombettes<br>1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland<br><br>Facsimile No. (41-22) 740.14.35 | Authorized officer<br><br><div style="text-align: center;"> <br/>           Pascal Piriou         </div> Telephone No. (41-22) 338.83.38 |
|--|--|